

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses research background, research problem, research purpose, research significance, scope and limitation, and definition of key term.

1.1 Research Background

Learning language is the most important tools in human life. English is one of the key that people can communicate with other country because it can facilitate us in understanding various thing such us technology, science, business and etc. Moreover, the development of language in each year is increasing especially English as an international language. Therefore, some etymologists believe that learning English is a matter of setting or shaping a habit (Brown, 2000). It means that if someone always uses their language, their habit can be sharpened.

In addition, the problem in learning English is not easy, students need to comprehend English well in order to communicate, understand journal, and also make some writing. Further, Khajloo (2013) also suggests that there are six problems in teaching and learning English, such as: (1) low hours of English language teaching, (2) low interest and motivation in learning English, (3) lack of concentration in the class, (4) students who are ahead of others, (5) most teachers lack proficiency in the English language, (6) lack of repetition, and frequency practice. However, Brown (2000) notes

that learning the second language is not easy because some of the crucial variables involved in the acquisition the process. Brown also adds that language teachers attain successfully if he or she has knowledge about factor that affect on how and why the learners are failing in learning the second language.

One of the other factors that influence the success of teaching and learning process is the students' perception about teaching and learning process. Perception is the process of organizing and interpreting information receive from outside world (Lahey, 2004 as cited in Jayusman, 2009). In the other hand, student perception is important because it can affect the student attitude and interest in learning English. If students have positive perception in learning the language, they can give the contribution to evaluate the material design, method and teacher performance in learning process in ESP program.

University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) implements English for Specific Purpose (ESP) program for their new students. It is used to meet the times and help students to learn English according to their needs. Some studies reveals that ESP program can give many impacts to the students because it can provide opportunities and help students to prepare their academic situation in the future. According to Chang (2009) and Tsao (2011) ESP is prescribed to the students who are required to meet the basic, particular and exact need to react to the significant request in professional or scholastic circumstances in English. To facilitate this program, Language Center (LC) in University of Muhammadiyah Malang has designed the handbook and test. This test

is done for three times such as: (1) entering university, (2) after receiving ESP course, (3) before graduation. It is used as a measurement of learning achievement in ESP program.

There are several considerations in conducting the study. Learning English in ESP program at University of Muhammadiyah Malang is selected as a set of this research study. Based on the preliminary study, some student said that the purpose of ESP has some impact for their major but the others students were still confused about the purpose of ESP program like students have got English learning from several sources such as learning in general class and self-taught through games, songs and films with English subtitles so that when getting ESP learning students feel bored and think to pass the course. However, the students' who have the negative response will apply their rejection when following ESP program. In other hand, they also want to get a good score and certificate. Further, they just learn English without any practicing in their daily life.

Therefore, the urgency of this research is there's still minimum number of studies that explain about the importance of ESP based on the students' perception especially in University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM). The previous study did not explain how the ESP program success or not, or never implies if ESP is necessary for students. However, there is a research which undergoes and talking about ESP in UMM namely Khalifa (2008) on the title "A Study on International Relation Students' Interest in learning English in ESP Program at UMM". The researcher also analyses students perception yet, the thing that is make it different is my researcher took English

Language Education Department (ELED) instead of International Relation Students. Also, in my research it just not only focuses on the problem face or findings from the perception but gives the solution from the students itself. The student's response on what they want in learning ESP could make a significant in future research.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher states the problem as follows:

“What is the students perception about learning English in ESP program at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?”

1.3 Research Purpose

The purpose of the research is to determine the perception of students who have learned English in ESP program at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.4 Research Significance

This research is expected to give contribution to Language Center (LC) in developing ESP program in order to be better. The result of this research can be used by lecturers and all the members of LC as an evaluation and to improve the quality of teaching and learning system in ESP program. By knowing the student perception in learning process, it will help the teacher have some innovations, and more creative in teaching learning process based on students' need. This research is also expected to

give contribution for the students taking ESP program, to know what ESP program is, and to improve their ability in learning English in ESP program.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the fifth semester students in English language education department (ELED) who already have been taken ESP program at University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The limitation in this research is related to the respondents, time and energy. Moreover, the researcher only used questionnaire to collect the data.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding, some important terms used in this study need to be defined:

1. Learning is a process of behavioral change as a result of experience in interaction with its environment (Slameto, 2003). Learning in this study is focusing on study English according to their respective major.
2. Perception is the process of organizing and interpreting information by using 5 senses. In this study, perception is defined as a responsive students' after they learning English in ESP program.
3. ESP is an English program functions to provide answer based on practical needs of English in the field of occupation, it is also supported by syllabus design, material writing, classroom teaching, and evaluation. Therefore, the ESP course takes into consideration not only the subject area of the learners but

also the lexical, semantic and structural aspects of the language characteristics of that specialized area. (Nuryasik, 2001).

